Becky + Crowley, he betas her slash fic

(Crowley, as a modern demon, understands the importance of email, the internet, and other useful devices for corruption and deal making.)

Becky, as a modern girl, understands the wonderful opportunities the internet presents to her as a fan of slash. She has adapted herself completely to the world of blogs, of fandom, of social networking.

Social networking, after all, is how she has found her latest beta. samlicker81's latest and greatest masterpiece needs someone to give it red font, and unfortunately deltabay and crowstoes are honeymooning together (Becky supported that entirely - getting two of her betas hooked up was a magical thing to behold) and while samlicker can get by with one beta, she likes a minimum of two.

So it's probably entirely luck when a certain newbie to LJ answers her post a find_a_beta and turns out not to be a troll.

(Crowley knows who samlicker81 is. He knows she's further in than the average fan of Supernatural is. He knows that his reputation won't hold up well if he's ever exposed as the beta of her works, but it gets him this much closer to some angle he may need in the future. So he carefully obliterates every computer he uses when in contact with her and never ever writes down his username or password.)

It takes approximately two days for samlicker81 to get chickenkisser (shut up he didn't want to be too obvious, and he likes the old 'Why did the Chicken cross the road?' joke) to give her an instant messaging username.

Their first conversation is mostly enthusiasm for Carver Edlund's newest books - for he is publishing again. Their second is a discussion of her fic, and of what she thinks of crossroads demons. (Crowley does his best not to 'accidentally' corrupt her harddrive after she puts down some of his favorite agents.)

It doesn't take Becky long to figure out that Crowley's more a fan of the bad guys than her two heroes, but she forgives him because he's one of those rare males on LJ and he is an excellent beta. She's getting more comments from people because of him, she's sure.

Nothing super-exciting happens until Crowley goes offline for quite a while - at least a week, and that's eternity in internet time. When he does come back...

Becky's a smart modern girl. She's noticed the always changing IP addresses by now. And he comes back only after Chuck called her, asking if she could round up all of the references to crossroads demons on the Supernatural books.

(Crowley reads her questions, then figures that since he's got about ten minutes before Hell catches up with him again, he can tell some of the truth.)

So it comes out like this:

chickenkisser: I am involved with demons, like you're thinking. Smart lass. Thing is, some of those demons want me dead for reasons you'd be best off ignorant of, and while I'd love to return Airplane Blues (samlicker81's latest WIP) to you in time, I have to get going in about five minutes.

He sends it off, waits a second, watches her startled questions and ideas come across the chat, then puts in:

chickenkisser: Tell your boyfriend Chuck that Crowley honestly thought it would work, and that he'd like it very much if the Winchesters could find something that would.

Then he signs off and decides that it doesn't matter if the message gets passed along or not.

There's a smoking wreck of a computer when he walks out of the library, and then he's gone, off to hide somewhere away from demonspawn.

They don't have anything to do with each other for a long time, but then.

The day after Chuck dumps her, the day after she gets the news that her heroes pulled it off, the day she goes through four tissue boxes over Chuck and then Sam -

there's a ding from her email, and inside is Airplane Blues, all edited, and even with some extra scenes written in to make it have a happy ending.

The text of the email goes as follows:

Becky/Samlicker81:

Sorry about the delay. The world almost ended. I want you to know that I pulled a favor this morning, and guess what? Sam winds up okay. I had it checked with four different sources and yes he and Dean find each other again.

Now don't tell anyone I told you that, or you'll ruin my reputation. Also I'm retiring from LJ for a while. Have a new tailor to find, etc.

Ta,
chickencrosser/Crowley